

## Department of Veterans Affairs

## § 3.275

provisions of § 3.660(a)(2) of this chapter.

[44 FR 45936, Aug. 6, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 34472, July 29, 1983; 57 FR 59300, Dec. 15, 1992]

### § 3.274 Relationship of net worth to pension entitlement.

(a) *Veteran.* Pension shall be denied or discontinued when the corpus of the estate of the veteran, and of the veteran's spouse, are such that under all the circumstances, including consideration of the annual income of the veteran, the veteran's spouse, and the veteran's children, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus of such estates be consumed for the veteran's maintenance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1522(a))

(b) *Increased pension payable to a veteran for a child.* Increased pension payable to a veteran on account of a child shall be denied or discontinued when the corpus of the estate of the child is such that under all the circumstances including consideration of the veteran's and spouse's income and the income of the veteran's child or children, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus of such child's estate be consumed for the child's maintenance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1522(b))

(c) *Surviving spouse.* Pension payable to a surviving spouse shall be denied or discontinued when the corpus of the estate of the surviving spouse is such that under all the circumstances, including consideration of the surviving spouse's income and the income of any child for whom the surviving spouse is receiving pension, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus of the surviving spouse's estate be consumed for the surviving spouse's maintenance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1543(a)(1))

(d) *Increased pension payable to a surviving spouse for a child.* Increased pension payable to a surviving spouse on account of a child shall be denied or discontinued when the corpus of the estate of the child is such that under all the circumstances, including consideration of the income of the surviving spouse and child and the income of any

other child for whom the surviving spouse is receiving increased pension, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus of the child's estate be consumed for the maintenance of the child.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1543(a)(2))

(e) *Child.* Pension payable to a child shall be denied or discontinued when the corpus of the estate of the child is such that under all the circumstances, including consideration of the income of the child, the income of any person with whom the child is residing who is legally responsible for such child's support, and the corpus of estate of such person, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus of such estates be consumed for the child's maintenance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1543(b))

### § 3.275 Criteria for evaluating net worth.

(a) *General.* The following rules are for application in determining the corpus of estate or net worth of a veteran, surviving spouse or child under § 3.274.

(b) *Definition.* The terms *corpus of estate* and *net worth* mean the market value, less mortgages or other encumbrances, of all real and personal property owned by the claimant, except the claimant's dwelling (single family unit), including a reasonable lot area, and personal effects suitable to and consistent with the claimant's reasonable mode of life.

(c) *Ownership.* See § 3.271(d).

(d) *Evaluation.* In determining whether some part of the claimant's estate (or combined estates under § 3.274 (a) and (e)) should be consumed for the claimant's maintenance, consideration will be given to the amount of the claimant's income together with the following: Whether the property can be readily converted into cash at no substantial sacrifice; life expectancy; number of dependents who meet the definition of *member of the family* (the definition contained in § 3.250(b)(2) is applicable to the improved pension program); potential rate of depletion, including unusual medical expenses under the principles outlined in § 3.272(g) for the claimant and the claimant's dependents.

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(e) *Educational expenses.* There shall be excluded from the corpus of estate or net worth of a child reasonable amounts for actual or prospective educational or vocational expenses. The amount so excluded shall not be such as to provide for education or training beyond age 23.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501)

(f) *Agent Orange settlement payments.* There shall be excluded from the corpus of the estate or net worth of a claimant any payment made from the Agent Orange Settlement Fund or any other fund established pursuant to the settlement in the *In re Agent Orange product liability litigation*, M.D.L. No. 381 (E.D.N.Y.). (January 1, 1989)

(Authority: Pub. L. 101–201, 103 Stat. 1795)

(g) *Restitution to individuals of Japanese ancestry.* There shall be excluded from the corpus of estate or net worth of a claimant any payment made as restitution under Public Law 100–383 to individuals of Japanese ancestry who were interned, evacuated, or relocated during the period December 7, 1941, through June 30, 1946, pursuant to any law, Executive order, Presidential proclamation, directive, or other official action respecting these individuals. (August 10, 1988)

(Authority: Sec. 105, Pub. L. 100–383; 102 Stat. 905)

(h) *Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.* There shall be excluded from the corpus of estate or net worth of a claimant any payment made under Section 6 of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2210 note)

(i) *Monetary allowance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 18 for certain individuals who are children of Vietnam veterans or children of veterans with covered service in Korea.* There shall be excluded from the corpus of estate or net worth of a claimant any allowance paid under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. chapter 18 to or for an individual who is a child of a Vietnam veteran or a child of a veteran with covered service in Korea.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1833(c))

(j) *Victims of Crime Act.* There shall be excluded from the corpus of estate or net worth of a claimant any amounts received as compensation under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 unless the total amount of assistance received from all federally funded programs is sufficient to fully compensate the claimant for losses suffered as a result of the crime.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 10602(c))

(k) *Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card and Transitional Assistance Program.* There shall be excluded from the corpus of estate or net worth of a claimant payments received under the Medicare transitional assistance program and any savings associated with the Medicare prescription drug discount card.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 1395w–141(g)(6))

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### § 3.276 Certain transfers or waivers disregarded.

(a) *Waiver of receipt of income.* Potential income, not excludable under § 3.272 and whose receipt has been waived by an individual, shall be included as countable income of that individual for Department of Veterans Affairs pension purposes.

(b) *Transfer of assets.* For pension purposes, a gift of property made by an individual to a relative residing in the same household shall not be recognized as reducing the corpus of the grantor's estate. A sale of property to such a relative shall not be recognized as reducing the corpus of the seller's estate if the purchase price, or other consideration for the sale, is so low as to be tantamount to a gift. A gift of property to someone other than a relative residing in the grantor's household will not be recognized as reducing the corpus of the grantor's estate unless it is clear that the grantor has relinquished all rights of ownership, including the right of control of the property.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501)